[redacted] 7/2/72

God our father, you are good beyond our ability either to understand or describe. There are times our father - and for some of us this is one of them - when our carefully constructed theologies come apart and we find ourselves standing wordlessly before the mystery of your presence. There are times - for each one of us - when the sheer goodness of life and the world and the gifts you have given overwhelms us, and we are as speechless as little children. And so our father at these times we reach into our history for words & ideas through which to express ourselves to you. We use words like praise adoration & reverence & gratitude. Hear these words. But here beyond the words to the deep and personal feelings they are intended to convey.

Our father - for your presence in our lives - for all you have done for us - for all you are - we lift up before your our act of worship. Hear us: through J.C. our Lord. Amen

On this day of remembering and celebrating the heritage of the nation, let us pray for our country.

let us give thanks for freedom and abundance. - silently

let us .. .. for those whose courage and idealism gave birth to the nation: for those whose sacrifice has made it strong.

let us pray for those today who are given responsibility for our lives - our president & his advisers: members of congress.

Our father, we are grateful for our nation: bless those entrusted with power: inspire all our people to a renewal of dedication to those noble ideals upon which our country is built. Through J.C. our Lord. Amen

On this day - as we worship in freedom, and peace and affluence: we need to remember that our freedom, peace & affluence make us a minority.

Let us pray for those Americans for whom freedom is still a dream ..

.. .. on the fields of war this day

.. .. who hunger in the midst of plenty

Our father, teach us the hypocricy of praying without really caring. Teach us again the hard lesson that we are responsible for all our brothers. through J.C. our Lord. Amen

21

Let us pray now for others we know -

let us pray for our families & friends

let us pray .. someone we know who is sick, or in special need.

let us pray for those of our number who are travelling on this day.

let us pray for reconciliation between ourselves and someone who has offended us.

Our father, we are a small group of your people. Some of us are good friends: some of us hardly know another here. Draw us closer to each other. Help us to care and grant us grace to express our caring: through J.C. our Lord. Amen

Almighty and Eternal God: it is good to be together in worship. Hear our prayers - ~~for we offer them in the name of J.C. who taught us to pray, saying~~ ...

~~Hear us now as we ... together ... prayer~~

~~of thanksgiving~~